



Emergency Child Care Assistance Provider Orientation





Overview of Quality Care for Children

A Child Care Resource & Referral Agency (or CCR&R) meets a need that no one else does -providing the bridge between parents, providers, community leaders, and policy makers. By offering a unique blend of direct services and planning expertise, CCR&Rs help families and communities ensure that their children arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.

In 1978, Quality Care for Children was founded as an office of Save the Children. During that time, the Child Care Support Center was created as a part of Save the Children in 1983. It was Georgia's first child care resource and referral program with the vision that every young child would receive quality early learning.

Today, QCC works with parents, child care providers and communities to nurture and educate infants and young children.

Services for Parents

- Free referrals for parents seeking child care, before and after school programs and summer camps through a Parent Referral Line and 25-hour online child care search
- Educates parents on how to choose appropriate child care
- Facilitates finding child care for children with special needs
- Assists parents in supporting their child's development through home visits, group activities and workshops
- Operates a Resource Room & Lending Library
- Assists parents in crisis with temporary emergency child care assistance

Services for Child Care Providers

- Works with providers to improve Quality Care for Children Offers telephone and on-site consultation
- Provides on-site consultation in caring for children with special needs
- Makes classroom training, on-site training and written materials available in English and Spanish
- Offers consultation to churches, synagogues and other nonprofit agencies to start or improve quality child care in all 159 counties in Georgia
- Operates a Resource Room & Lending Library
- Serves as the largest Child Care Food Program in the Southeast

Overview of the Emergency Child Care Assistance Program

Families living at or just above the poverty line must balance their financial obligations carefully. One disruption, such as an unexpected bill, or illness can create disaster causing a whole array of consequences that can at worst lead to homelessness. It is for these families that Quality Care for Children provides emergency child care support. Quality Care for Children pays for up to six weeks of child care expenses to avert such a family crisis. In many instances temporary child care assistance is integral to both resolving the crisis and keeping the family unit intact.

Most families served are single mothers who are already homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless. Other mothers are struggling to leave a violent situation. Some are facing overnight hospital stays and have no family or friends in the area that can provide care for their children. Some mothers have secured gainful employment but cannot afford the first month of child care so that they can begin their jobs. The families served by this project have no other resources to pay for child care and are in crisis and in need of immediate assistance.

To assist families through their crisis, Quality Care for Children trains a pool of emergency child care providers to care for children in these difficult circumstances. Some caregivers provide 24-hour care. Recruited centers and family child care (in-home) providers often have flexible schedules, offer transportation and can provide care for extended hours and overnight stay. QCC reimburses the child care program for the care provided and supports the caregivers through periodic workshops, technical assistance visits, and telephone consultation. In addition, QCC's inclusion coordinators assure that parents are linked to other services for children with special needs in the community.

QCC also assists parents who are caught in a precarious situation in which they have gained employment but cannot afford child care. QCC pays for child care until the parent receives their first full paycheck that will allow them to continue paying for care. Parent counselors assist parents in locating affordable quality child care that meets their needs.

Participating providers receive regular training specifically to facilitate the care for these families. They participate in training on child development, special needs and crisis management. All participating programs are licensed and registered with Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. Periodic visits are made to the child care program to ensure that quality care is maintained.

QCC staff provides ongoing supervision and follow-up with child care providers about the children. Furthermore, QCC staff works with families to develop strategies and connections with community resources.